

Annual-dominated Floodplain Disturbance Community

COMMON NAME

SYNONYM Floodplain Disturbance Meadow

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous vegetation (V)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Annual graminoid or forb vegetation (V.D)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar annual grasslands or forb vegetation (V.D.2)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Planted/cultivated (V.D.2.C)

FORMATION Undefined

ALLIANCE Undefined

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

Information not available.

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

This community occurs throughout the Monument in ungrazed areas within the floodplain of the Niobrara River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Information not available.

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This community occurs in level ground on lower floodplain terraces, usually along the boundary of *Pascopyrum smithii* Herbaceous Vegetation and *Juncus balticus* Herbaceous Vegetation. Soils are fine sands and loamy fine sands and are probably slightly alkaline.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

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Stratum

Herbaceous

Species

Atriplex heterosperma, *Cyclachaena xanthifolia*, *Helianthus annuus*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

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Atriplex heterosperma, *Cyclachaena xanthifolia*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Information not available.

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In most occurrences, this community is dominated by a dense near-monoculture stand of *Cyclachaena xanthifolia* 1-2 m tall, occasionally co-occurring with *Atriplex heterosperma* and other coarse annuals such as *Helianthus annuus*. More open stands also contain perennial forbs and grasses typical of the community bordering the disturbance. Species common in more open floodplain disturbance stands include *Cirsium flodmanii*, *Hordeum jubatum*, *Juncus balticus*, *Melilotus alba*, *Pascopyrum smithii*, and *Poa pratensis*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE Not applicable

COMMENTS

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This community is a result of extensive disturbance with subsequent invasion by weedy exotic or native species. Thus, it is not placed within the National Vegetation Classification System. This community appears to be a degraded condition of the higher, slightly-alkaline portions of the wet meadow community, though it may also occur in *Pascopyrum smithii* Herbaceous Vegetation, as well. The two most common species (*Atriplex micrantha* and *Iva xanthifolia*) are tolerant of slightly alkaline soils. This community is not found in grazed areas surrounding the Monument, and may occur as a result of excessive thatch accumulation smothering the graminoids in the ungrazed areas.

REFERENCES